

December 14 - 20, 2014

Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Duck and goose numbers remained similar to those numbers reported in previous weeks. There were no large scale weather events this past reporting period to provide a catalyst to push new birds into the state. Weather through Christmas is predicted to be more of the same with above normal temperatures through the middle of the week and a weak weather system moving through in the state around Christmas Day. Some much needed predicted rain should maintain natural wetlands and moist soil units that rely on natural flooding at their current low levels.

Hunting was reported to be only fair across much of the state. Hunters are encountering the same birds which have been in the state over the last few weeks. These birds have established patterns which make them difficult to hunt. Most success is coming from hunters who are able to access areas that have either not been hunted or have extremely limited hunting pressure. Hunting is expected to continue to be relatively slow through the end of the year unless a major weather system occurs to push new birds into the state.

Merry Christmas and remember even a slow day hunting is a good day in the field!!

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	50,000 ducks	92% mallard, 5% gadwall, 3% other dabblers and divers.	Most birds remain using MSUs in buck brush in Front Slough, Mitchell and New Hole. OH River is dropping so some water is receding into the ground. More water was added to Mitchell to provide new moist soil plants.
Barren River Lake	30 ducks	50% divers (100% mergansers) 50% dabblers all mallards.	Very dry again Peters Creek-70% full, Calvert Springs 10-20% full.
Birdsville Island	No Count this week		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	No Count this week		
Duck Island	No Count this week		
Boatwright WMA	29,000 ducks	Mostly mallards	Some low water has been added to flood MSUs from the last rain.
Doug Travis WMA	3,900 ducks	90% mallards, 10% mixed dabblers and ring-necked ducks.	Most waterfowl on Town Creek MSUs.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Peabody WMA	1,530 ducks 166 CG 6 WFG	95% mallards	MSUs remain low. Region could use a good rain.
Sloughs WMA	6,485 ducks 170 CG 7,465 WFG 8,000 SG 43 Tundra swans	90% mallard, 10% gadwall, black duck, pintail, and shoveler	Most ducks and WF geese concentrated on refuge. Recent rains recharged many of the sloughs.
Yellowbank WMA	570 ducks	80% mallard, gadwall and black duck	Most MSU's are at 75% water capacity
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	200 ducks 10 CG	50% diving ducks (Unknown species) 50% dabblers (55% mallard, 30% gadwall, 15% black duck)	Diving ducks on Lake Vega, dabbling ducks on MSUs
Herrington Lake	1 duck	merganser	Lake open, normal pool
Taylorsville Lake	5 ducks 55 CG	On nearby ponds	MSUs are flooded.
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	No Count This week		
Green River WMA	No Count This week		